

Message Text

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17
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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6340

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT SP
SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: MADRID 6168, 6309

1. PSOE "CONDITIONS": PSOE SECGEN FELIPE GONZALEZ, IN
AN AUGUST 17 SPANISH WIRE SERVICE INTERVIEW, STATED THAT
THE PSOE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS ONLY IF THEY WERE
FOR A "CONSTITUENT" ASSEMBLY AND WERE CARRIED OUT UNDER
AN ELECTORAL LAW WHICH HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED BETWEEN GOVT
AND OPPOSITION AND WHICH GUARANTEED FREE AND UNIVERSAL
SUFFRAGE AND ELIMINATED THE POSSIBILITY OF "CACIQUISMO"

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(BOSSISM). UNLIKE UPI'S SPECTACULAR TREATMENT OF

GONZALEZ' REMARKS, THE MADRID PRESS ACCORDED THEM NO SPECIAL MENTION AND CLEARLY DID NOT VIEW THEM AS OMINOUS. DURING THE INTERVIEW, GONZALEZ ALSO:

-- PREDICTED THAT THE WINNER OF A FREE ELECTION WOULD BE EITHER THE "MODERATE PROGRESSIVES" (I.E., CENTER-LEFT) OR THE "MODERATE REACTIONARIES" (I.E., CENTER-RIGHT):

--STATED, WITH A TOUCH OF ARROGANCE, THAT THE PSOE ACCEPTS AS AN "INEXORABLE FACT" ITS ROLE AS THE PRINCIPAL PROTAGONIST ON THE LEFT; IT IS THE "AXIS OF CRYSTALIZATION OF ALLIANCES AND THE GUARANTEE OF STABILITY OF A DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE, THE SAME ROLE WHICH THE PARTY PLAYED IN 1931;

-- DENIED PCE CHARGES THAT THE PSOE IS PRINCIPALLY A "SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC" PARTY, AND REAFFIRMED ITS COMMITMENT TO EMBARCE ALL THOSE ON THE LEFT FROM "TRUE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS THROUGH NO-LENINIST MARXIST."

2. "GRUPO INDEPENDIENTE" SPEAKS: THE SO-CALLED INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, A LOOSE ORGANIZATION OF ABOUT 50 DEMOCRATICALLY MINDED CENTER-RIGHT CORTES DEPUTIES, SOME OF WHOM ARE CLOSE TO THE GOS, ADDITS VOICE TO THOSE ADVOCATING A CONSTITUENT ROLE FOR THE NEXT CORTES, "SO THAT THE POLITICAL PARTIES CAN PARTICIPATE IN STRUCTURING SPAIN'S DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM." IN A LETTER PRESENTED TO CORTES PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ MIRANDA, THE "GRUPO INDEPENDIENTE" ALSO REPORTEDLY MADE, INTER ALIA, THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

--THE PARLIAMENT SHOULD CONSIST OF TWO HOUSES, BASED ON FREE, SECRET, UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, THE LOWER HOUSE (CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES) ELECTED DIRECTLY FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS; AND THE UPPER HOUSE (SENATE), REPRESENTING REGIONS, LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS ORGANIZATIONS, PROFESSIONAL GROUPS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, ELECTED INDIRECTLY FOR A SIX-YEAR TERM. THE KING WOULD HAVE THE POWER TO DISSOLVE EITHER OR BOTH HOUSES AND CALL NEW ELECTIONS. (NO MENTION IS MADE OF EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITY TO PARLIAMENT.)

-- THE COUNCIL OF THE REALM SHOULD BE RESTRUCTURED TO ELIMINATE CURRENT APPOINTIVE POSITIONS AND TO REFLECT

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THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW CORTES. THE NEW COUNCIL WOULD CONSIST OF A PRESIDENT SELECTED FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, THE PRESIDENTS OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AND THE SENATE, AND EIGHT DEPUTIES FROM EACH CHAMBER, ELECTED BY THEIR FELLOWS SITTING IN PLENARY SESSION.

--WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT FREELY TO FORM ASSOCIATIONS OR UNIONS.

3. FRAGA, AREILZA, CABANILLAS MEET: THE THREE EX-MINISTERS FINALLY HELD THEIR PRIVATE GET-TOGETHER, WHICH HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED ALMOST BREATHLESSLY BY THE PRESS FOR DAYS, ON AUGUST 17. ALTHOUGH THEY MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE REMARKS AFTER THEIR CHAT, THE THREE LEFT NO DOUBT IN ANYONE'S MIND ABOUT THE SUBJECT--POLITICS.
STABLER

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